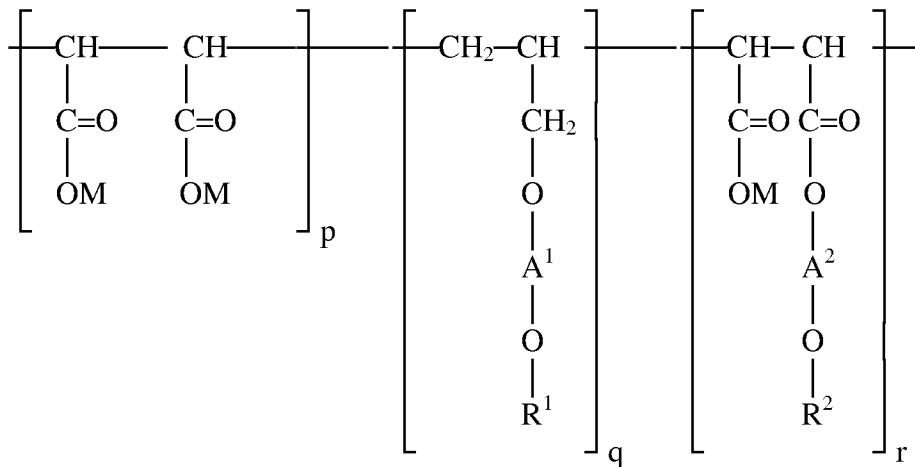


## R E M A R K S

Claims 10 and 18 currently remain in the application. Claims 12-17 remain withdrawn as being addressed to a non-elected subject matter. Claims 1-9 and 11 have been canceled. No claims are herein amended.

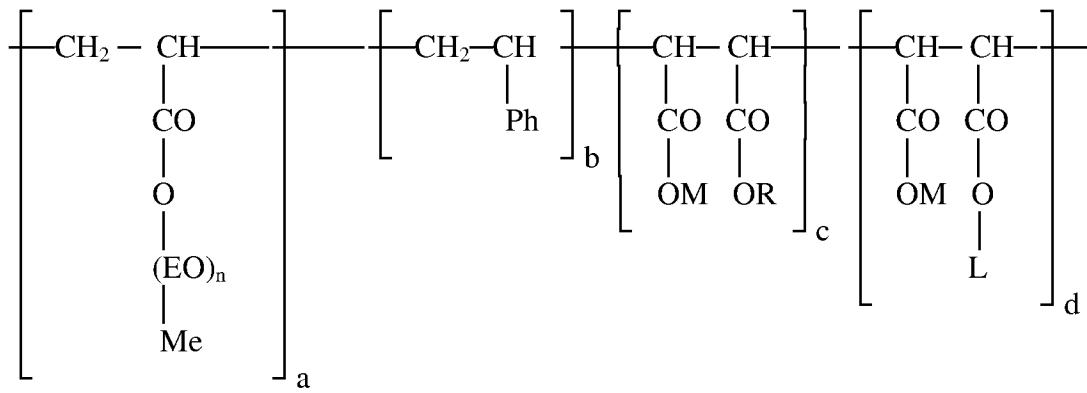
Claims 10 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Kerkar in view of Ohta, further in view of Dupont and Derwent, and still further in view of Kloetzer.

As correctly understood by the Examiner and clearly stated in claim 18, the multi-functional admixture for concrete according to this invention is characterized as comprising Component A, Component B and Component C wherein said Component A has a structural unit shown by Formula 6, which is given by

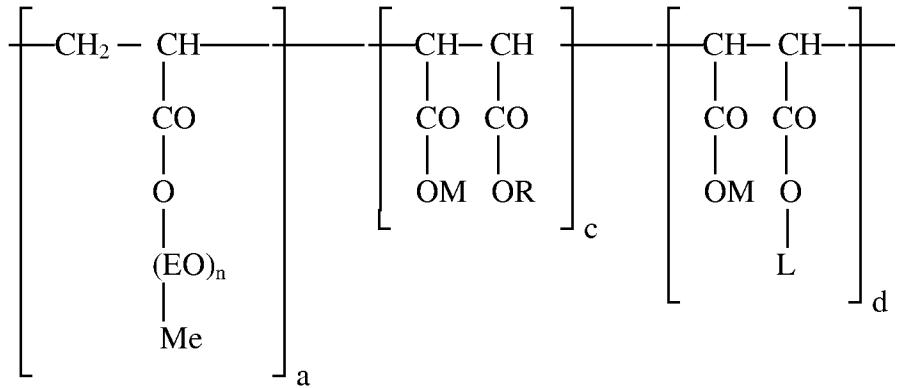


In an earlier submitted document entitled Preliminary Amendment "L", applicant pointed out that Formula 6 represents a "three-unit structure" and argued that Kerkar discloses copolymers of a two-unit structure and Ohta discloses salts of copolymers of a four-unit structure. Against this argument by applicant, the Examiner stated in said Office Action dated October 1, 2008 that Table 1 of Ohta includes situations where  $b=0$  and hence Ohta's disclosure may be said to include copolymers and their salts with a three-unit structure (page 9 of the Official Letter).

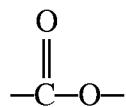
Ohta's General Formula A, as cited by the Examiner, is as follows:



If  $b=0$  in Formula A, it becomes as follows (herein referred to as Formula Z, for convenience):



The Examiner is requested to compare Formula 6 of the present invention reproduced above with Formula Z which was introduced hereinabove. Although they both show a three-unit structure, their structural units are different. The portion which looks like  $[]_p$  in Formula 6 corresponds to the portion which looks like  $[]_c$  in Formula Z, and the portion which looks like  $[]_r$  in Formula 6 corresponds to the portion which looks like  $[]_d$  in Formula Z, but the portion which looks like  $[]_q$  in Formula 6 is clearly different from the portion which looks like  $[]_a$  in Formula Z. Explained more in detail, the portion which looks like  $[]_q$  in Formula 6 is of a structure having polyethylene glycol chain with  $\text{A}^1$  etc. connected to the main chain through an ether bond ( $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$ ), while the portion which looks like  $[]_a$  in Formula Z is of a different structure having polyethylene glycol chain with  $(\text{EO})_n$  etc. connected to the main chain through an ester bond which is shows as follows:



(ester bond).

Next, Component B of this invention is discussed. As explained in claim 18, Component B according to this invention is polypropyleneglycol monoalkyl ether shown by Formula 3. The Examiner seems to be of the opinion that Component B is disclosed in Dupont and Derwent (page 7 of the Official Letter), but it is diethylene glycol butylether that is disclosed by Dupont and Derwent, not polypropylene glycol monoalkyl ether shown by Formula 3 as Component B of this invention.

As for Component C of this invention, applicant is already admitting that there is a partial overlapping between the organic phosphates serving as Component C of this invention and the organic phosphates described by Kloetzer.

In summary, the multi-functional admixture for concrete of this invention is characterized as comprising three different components (Components A, B and C) at specified ratios but two of these components (Components A and B) are neither disclosed in nor even hinted at by any of the cited references.

Next, it will be shown that the desired effects achievable by the present invention cannot be achieved if use is made of products which cannot be said to be a product according to this invention simply because a component shown by aforementioned Formula Z is used instead of Component A according to this invention.

Tables 2a, 4a and 5a shown below are tables corresponding respectively to Tables 2, 4 and 5 in the specification of the present application except that Test Example 1 is included for the convenience of comparison. Symbols used in Tables 2a, 4a and 5a are the same as those used in Tables 2, 4 and 5, and GF-A which was used as Component A in Table 2a is a reaction product corresponding to the copolymer salt shown by Formula Z obtained by the method described in Preparation 8 of Ohta so as to be the same as "a-1" of Test Example 1 except that the ester bond in the portion  $[]_a$  of Formula Z is different from the ether bond in the portion  $[]_q$  of Formula 6.

Table 2a

	Kind	Component A (kind/ratio(part))	Component B (kind/ratio(part))	Component C (kind/ratio(part))	Others (kind/ratio(part))
Test Example: 1	P-1	a-1 / 50	b-1 / 49	c-1 / 1	
Comparison Example: 31	P-1a	GF-A/50	b-1 / 49	c-1 / 1	

Table 4a

	Admixture		Property of concrete				
	Kind	Added amount *6	Immediately after kneading		90 minutes later		Slump loss (%)
			Slump (cm)	Air quantity (%)	Slump (cm)	Air quantity (%)	
Test Example: 16	P-1	0.34	18.6	4.7	15.9	4.6	85.5
Comparison Example: 32	P-1a	0.34	12.3	4.9	4.1	4.5	33.3

Table 5a

	Properties of admixture				
	Shrinkage (x10 <sup>-4</sup> ) at 26 weeks	Durability against freezing and thawing action (300 cycles)	Accelerated carbonation depth (mm)	Compressive strength	
				Age = 7 days	Age = 28 days
Test Example: 16	5.2	96	10.8	36.3	49.2
Comparison Example: 32	7.0	90	12.2	35.1	48.7

The results shown in Tables 4a and 5a in view of Table 2a indicate that desired results of this invention cannot be obtained if a copolymer or its salt shown by Formula Z is used as Component A instead of a copolymer or its salt shown by Formula 6.

It is therefore believed that the present invention is not obvious even if the cited references are considered in whatever combination and hence that the present application should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

/kn/  
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